



PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

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June 22, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Two Elkins Residents Arrested on Charges of Violations of Federal Firearms Laws

ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA — Two Elkins, West Virginia, men were arrested today (June 22, 2007) by law enforcement officers on charges contained in a Criminal Complaint.

United States Attorney Sharon L. Potter and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today announced that TERRY PHILLIPS, age 57, and ROBERT P. SMITH, age 50, were arrested pursuant to a Criminal Complaint charging them with unlawfully selling and delivering a firearm, other than a shotgun or rifle, to an undercover Special Agent with the ATF who he, as the licensee, knew and had reasonable cause to believe was not a resident of West Virginia. PHILLIPS and SMITH will have their initial appearances today at 3:00 p.m. in Elkins before Magistrate Judge John S. Kaull. The charge in the Criminal Complaint carries a maximum exposure of ten years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are also conducting a search at T&S Loans located in Elkins, for Firearms, ATF Firearms Transaction Records 4473 forms, A&D Book, any and all documents or receipts relating to the purchase, pawn or sale of firearms, ownership, partnership or incorporations relative to the business operated from the above premises, as well as any United States currency related to the purchase of firearms by undercover ATF Special Agents.

“This office will continue to prosecute violations of Federal firearms statutes under the Project Safe Home Initiative,” stated United States Attorney Potter.

Vido, who is responsible for overseeing ATF operations in the Northern District of West Virginia, said “ATF’s mission is to reduce violent crime and protect the public and in this case we did just that. These arrests were a result of quality criminal investigative techniques.”

June 22, 2007
PRESS RELEASE
Page 2

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Shawn Angus Morgan. The case was investigated by the Wheeling Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in partnership with the West Virginia State Police and the Elkins Police Department.

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